

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018; 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Michael Baker
Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	James Brogdon, City Attorney
Lakesha Shannon, City Clerk	Dwayne Tennie, Police Chief

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Jim Gray gave the opening prayer. Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8).

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 12, 2017

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 12, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

5. DECEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Officer Jonathan Brantley, with the City of Marion Police Department was named the *December Employee of the Month*. Mayor Brady thanked Officer Brantley for all work in helping to protect the citizens of Marion.

6. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT – HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Mayor Brady stated that Council needs to fill the unexpired term of Leslie Johnson on the Housing Authority Committee. Council received a nomination from the Housing Authority to appoint Mrs. Claretha Conner to complete the 5 year unexpired term. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt, to appoint Ms. Claretha Conner to the Housing Authority Committee to complete the unexpired 5 year term. The motion passed unanimously.***

7. APPROVE 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Mayor Brady noted the 2018 City Council meeting schedule. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt, to approve the 2018 City Council Meeting Schedule. The motion passed unanimously.***

8. KENNETH COBB & CO. AUDIT REVIEW

Mrs. Brenda Jackson from Kenneth Cobb & Company was present to give the 2017 Audit Review. Mrs. Jackson thanked Council for the opportunity to serve as auditor this year. She also thanked the city staff for their assistance with the audit process. Mrs. Jackson presented Council with a review of the audit report, and encouraged them to stop her at any point to ask questions. The City received an unmodified clean opinion on its financial statements, which is the top

opinion that can be received. Mrs. Jackson provided an overview of the City's financial statements and highlighted some important areas. She noted that there were some decreases in assets, mainly due to depreciation. The total assets for the City as of June 30, 2017 were \$15,243,000, and total liabilities were \$6,616,000. There was no new debt incurred during the fiscal year; however, liabilities increased due to the pension and OPEB obligations which are mandated by GASB for employees and retirees. Mrs. Jackson stated that the overall General Fund Balance was \$5.4 million as of June 30, 2017, and commented that this was very good. She highlighted that the City used much less of the fund balance than initially budgeted. The fund balance was mainly used to address capital projects such as equipment and building needs. There were no new findings on the Letter of Compliance and Internal Controls. Council was pleased with the overall audit review and thanked Mrs. Jackson for her presentation. *A detailed copy of the audit is available at City Hall for review.*

Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt motioned, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to accept the audit review as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

9. RENEW AUDITOR AGREEMENT

Mayor Brady stated that Council received a copy of the renewal agreement from Kenneth Cobb & Company to extend audit services for the next two (2) years. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to extend the contract for audit services with Kenneth Cobb & Co. for an additional two (2) years. The motion passed unanimously.***

10. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**A. Debris Removal Agreement**

Mr. Ammons presented a copy of the proposed Debris Removal Agreement which was previously discussed by Council. This agreement will allow the City to help citizens remove large stumps and debris from their property as a result of Hurricane Matthew. *Councilman Ralph Atkinson motioned, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt, to approve the Debris Removal Agreement as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.*

B. Miscellaneous

Mr. Ammons stated that there was no significant damage to any City properties as a result of the recent snow storm; however, there were a few water lines that burst. He stated that a 24-hour warming shelter was opened at the fire department and two citizens stayed for the duration of the storm. Mr. Ammons reported that the GPS trackers will be installed on the police cars during the upcoming week. The scheduled driveway replacements were delayed due to the weather. This process will begin next week also. Councilman Ralph Atkinson commented on the road work in front of the post office. Mr. Ammons stated that Grand Strand Water & Sewer is repairing a water leak in that area.

11. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

12. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Brady stated that Departmental Reports were included in the Council packets for review.

13. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATES FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Brady stated that he spoke with Bishop Michael Blue regarding the upcoming Martin Luther King Day Celebration. This event will be held on January 15th, at 11:00 a.m. at the Door of Hope Christian Church. Mayor Brady stated that there was no significant damage due to the recent snow storm in the City of Marion. He commended the Public Works Department for all their extra efforts in keeping the streets safe. Mayor Brady stated that the Christmas Food Box distribution was a success, with over 100 boxes delivered to citizens. Mayor Brady stated that city employees are currently taking down Christmas decorations. Mayor Brady announced the two recipients of the Downtown Façade Grant. He stated that the selection board, which consists of Mr. Ammons and HMRA, selected downtown business owners, J.P. Williams and Ed Mason. They were each awarded a \$5,000 grant to make renovations to their buildings. Mayor Brady noted that this is a reimbursement grant, and all work must be completed prior to receiving the grant funding.

Councilman Michael Baker stated that his concerns were addressed with Mr. Ammons prior to the meeting.

Councilman Joseph Frazier stated that District 4 recently held a neighborhood meeting, and complaints were received regarding an inoperative car and debris at 518 and 519 Mullins Street. He also requested the status of an unoccupied building on North Main Street, and the old Coca-Cola building on Manning Street. Mayor Brady stated that he has spoken with the property owners, and it's not much that can be done by the City since these are private properties. Councilman Frazier also expressed his concerns with the status of Thomas Mobile Home Park.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson thanked all city employees for working to keep things running smoothly during the recent snow storm.

Mayor Brady commented on the sidewalk edging projects in the city. He stated that edging work has begun on Bobby L. Davis Blvd and will continue on Huggins Street and Martin Luther King Blvd this week. This will be an ongoing project.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson expressed his concerns with citizens placing televisions and other items at the city recycling center that are not disposed of by the City. Mayor Brady stated that cameras have been installed at the recycle center to help resolve this issue.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no update.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis stated that she is grateful that there were no injuries or deaths during the recent snow storm. She commented that her other family members went door-to-door checking on senior citizens who most likely did not have access to social media weather announcements.

Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt wished all citizens a Happy New Year. He introduced his daughter and uncle who were present at the meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Mayor Ashley Brady

City Clerk Lakesha Y. Shannon
Taped: January 9, 2018